



Proposed Changes to Commercial Bait Fish Seining Waters--2014

The list of approved seining waters is provided to all applicants. Proposed deletions to the list are indicated by a strikethrough, while proposed additions are indicated by italicized text. Following the list is a section providing the rationale for each of these deletions/additions.

LIST OF APPROVED SEINING WATERS

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be taken from the following waters:

Western Fishing District

Flathead Lake (north half only)
Flathead River (mouth to Highway 2 Bridge) plus adjacent sloughs
Ashley Creek
~~Ashley Lake tributaries~~
~~Stillwater River (Dog Lake downstream to the mouth)~~
~~Finger Lake~~
~~Fish Lake, Lincoln County~~
Flathead River (Flathead Reservation boundary to confluence with Clark Fork River)
~~Echo Lake~~
~~Whitfish River~~
~~Herrig Creek (Little Bitterroot tributary)~~
Clark Fork River (mouth of Flathead River to Thompson Falls Dam)
Noxon Rapids Reservoir
Upper. Lower and Middle Thompson lakes

Central Fishing District

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
Bighorn River -- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area
Clarks Fork Yellowstone River -- Downstream from bridge at Bridger
Kammerzell Reservoir
Marias River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15
Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam
Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals
Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream of the mouth of the Clarks Fork
Teton River & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15
Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell) & tributaries downstream from Interstate 15

Eastern Fishing District (continued on next page)

Streams -- Nongame bait fish may be taken from all streams in the Eastern District **except** the following:

Milk River and tributaries above Fresno Dam
Beaver Creek upstream from Beaver Creek Reservoir
Big Dry Creek and Little Dry Creek north of Highway #200 in Garfield County
Hanging Woman Creek downstream from the Birney Road to its confluence with the Tongue River
Otter Creek downstream from Highway #212 to its confluence with the Tongue River
Lone Tree Creek and Fox Creek, tributaries to the Yellowstone River in Richland County
Missouri River downstream from the mouth of the Milk River

Eastern Fishing District (continued)

All irrigation canals and ditches in the Eastern Fishing District are open year around for taking nongame bait fish.

Nongame bait fish may be taken from the following reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District:

<u>WATER</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
Anita Reservoir	Yellowstone
Bailey Reservoir	Hill
Bainville Railroad Ponds	Roosevelt
Baker Lake	Fallon
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill
BLM Reservoirs	Blaine, Phillips
BLM Reservoirs in Willow Creek Drainage	Valley
Box Elder Reservoir	Sheridan
Buxbaum West Reservoir	Richland
Castle Rock Lake	Rosebud
Cole Ponds	Phillips
Cow Creek Reservoir	Blaine
Doug Gardner #2 Reservoir	Carter
Dry Fork Reservoir	Blaine
Engstrom Reservoir	Sheridan
Ester Reservoir	Phillips
Flat Lake	McCone
Frenchman Reservoir	Phillips
Gartside Reservoir	Richland
Grub Reservoir	Valley
Gut Shot Reservoir	Valley
Hedstrom Reservoir	McCone
Johnson Reservoir	Dawson
Killenbeck Reservoir	Daniels
Kuester Reservoir	Richland
Lame Steer Reservoir	Wibaux
Lee (Sam) Reservoir	Dawson
Lindsay Reservoir	Dawson
Little Warm Reservoir	Phillips
Lyons Reservoir	Blaine
McChesney Reservoir	Phillips
Medicine Lake Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge	Sheridan
Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam	
Nelson Reservoir	Phillips
Petrolia Reservoir	Petroleum
Raymond Reservoir	Sheridan
Schlesinger Perch Pond	Rosebud
Shoot Reservoir	Valley
South Sandstone Reservoir	Fallon
Spotted Eagle Pond	Custer
Talcott Pond	Carter
Tongue River Reservoir	Big Horn
Tripple Crossing Reservoir	Valley
Valley Reservoir	Valley
VR2 Reservoir	Valley
Wards Reservoir	Valley
Whiteside Reservoir	Garfield
Whitetail Reservoir	Daniels
<i>Wibaux Pond</i>	<i>Wibaux</i>

Rationale for changes proposed to Approved Seining Waters list

Western Fishing District:

Ashley Lake tributaries (deletion): Currently there is no interest in commercial collection, but previously the collections were of spawning suckers. This activity should not be allowed in the future as it may be detrimental to rainbow/cutthroat trout hybrids which are spawning at the same time.

Stillwater River (Dog Lake downstream to mouth) (deletion): At present, there is no interest in commercial collection, and the current status of the forage base is unknown.

Finger Lake (deletion): At present, there is no interest in commercial collection, and the current status of the forage base is unknown.

Fish Lake, Lincoln County (deletion): At present, there is no interest in commercial collection, and the current status of the forage base is unknown.

Echo Lake (deletion): At present, there is no interest in commercial collection, and the current status of the forage base (primarily yellow perch) is unknown.

Whitefish River (deletion): At present, there is no interest in commercial collection, and the current status of the forage base is unknown.

Herrig Creek (Little Bitterroot tributary)(deletion): Currently there is no interest in commercial collection, but previously the collections were of spawning suckers. This activity should not be allowed in the future as it may be detrimental to rainbow/cutthroat trout hybrids which are spawning at the same time.

Eastern Fishing District:

Bailey Reservoir (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. There is also the concern that collections could deplete bait fish species (fathead minnow, white sucker) that are necessary to maintain gamefish populations (walleye, northern pike, black crappie, yellow perch). Lastly, there is the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Castle Rock Lake (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. There is also the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish (walleye, northern pike) that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Cow Creek Reservoir (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. There is also the concern that collections could deplete bait fish species (suckers, minnows, chubs, shiners) that are necessary to maintain gamefish populations (walleye, tiger muskie, channel catfish, yellow perch, brook trout). Lastly, there is the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Doug Gardner #2 Reservoir (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. There is also the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish (largemouth bass) that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Ester Reservoir (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. There is also the concern that collections could deplete bait fish species (white sucker, fathead minnow, Iowa darter, common carp) that are necessary to maintain gamefish populations (walleye, northern pike, yellow perch). Lastly, there is the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Johnson Reservoir (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity.

Lame Steer Reservoir (deletion): This is a private pond and no longer managed by FWP.

Lee (Sam) Reservoir (deletion): This is a private pond and no longer managed by FWP.

Little Warm Reservoir (deletion): There is the concern that collections could deplete bait fish species (minnow, shiner, darter, stickleback) that are necessary to maintain gamefish populations (walleye, tiger muskie). Lastly, there is the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Lyons Reservoir (deletion): There is the concern that collections could deplete bait fish species (fathead minnow, white sucker) that are necessary to maintain gamefish populations (northern pike). Lastly, there is the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

McChesney Reservoir (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. There is also the concern that collections could deplete bait fish species (white sucker, fathead minnow, common carp) that are necessary to maintain gamefish populations (northern pike, yellow perch). Lastly, there is the potential for accidental collection and movement of the predator fish that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Schlesinger Perch Pond (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity.

South Sandstone Reservoir (deletion): This water does not produce suitable numbers of bait fish to make commercial seining a sustainable activity. There is also the potential that accidental collection and movement of the predator fish (walleye, northern pike) that could negatively affect fish populations in other waters.

Wibaux Pond (addition): This water has abundant numbers of bait fish (white suckers, golden shiners, fathead minnows, sand shiners) and should be able to sustain commercial collections.